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## Josephine (JO) County (CO) Justice System (JS) & Public Safety Services (PSS)

### JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services<sup>1-4</sup>

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. They both failed. The Exploratory Committee asks the question: “Is JO CO providing an minimally adequate level of public safety services?”

### ANTICIPATED IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY AND POSSIBLE RESPONSES

#### Chapter 7. Anticipated Impacts on JO CO and Possible Responses From Loss of FFP: After 2009<sup>5</sup>

**Ch. 7.a. Impacts To Well-Being From Reductions In Public Safety** Well-being includes emotional and physical factors that impact overall quality of life, such as concerns over financial security and way of life, or threats to personal or community safety.

**Reduced Capacity to Arrest** Participants of businesses, institutions and residents expressed concern that the reduced capacity to arrest, hold and prosecute criminal offenders would result in an increase in the number of offenders in, or released into, the community, which would increase the chance that businesses or residents would become victims of crime, impacting well-being. It also increases the chance that offenders – those not apprehended, or prematurely released – would not receive the sanctions or treatment they need to make restitution, resulting in repeat offenses, which further impacts well-being.

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1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.

2. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission*. Hugo, OR.

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## Justice System Exploratory Committee

**Financial Impacts** Participants identified several financial impacts associated with these scenarios. In the case of the first, for example, should harm come to an individual it may be necessary for them to seek out and bear the costs of medical care, or if there is property theft or damage there may be costs associated with replacement or repair. There are also potential impacts to insurance rates.

**Response to Reduction In Public Safety** When asked how they, or the community, might respond to reductions in public safety and potential increase in crime rates, participants indicated that some people will do nothing, including no longer calling into to report crimes while others will (and are) taking matters into their own hands – by acquiring a concealed weapon and/or permit, acquiring a dog for security/protection, installing and/or subscribing to an alarm system/service, or installing security windows, doors, gates or fencing.

“They don't see the safety people anyway - so they don't feel they're losing much, now.” – Josephine County business/institution

“They will take things into their own hands. They'll all be packing rifles. We already know people who are doing that. There are a lot of concealed weapons permits.” – Josephine County resident

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3. HNA&HS. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.

4. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Government Needs Support*. Hugo, OR.

5. Gaid, Dawn Marie, October 2009. *Changing Federal County Payments and Rural Oregon Counties: Analysis of Policy Impacts and Responses from Loss of Secure Rural School Funding in Selected Oregon Counties*. RSP 09-04. (134 pages). OSU's Rural Studies Program. Working Paper Series.

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## Anticipated Impacts On Well Being From Reductions Of Public Safety: After 2009

**Reduction in Patrol** Participants felt that the reduction in patrol from a 24/7 schedule to one 10-hour shift would increase the chance that people traveling the county roads would become victims of an accident, either through their own actions or others, impacting well-being. For example, less caution may be used in observing speed limits or taking unnecessary risks, especially if it is common knowledge there is not adequate law enforcement.

**Financial Implications** Participants identified several financial implications that might arise from this situation. If an automobile accident occurred, for example, there would be expenses associated with a wrecked vehicle including increases in insurance rates, medical expenses related to an injury or injuries, or legal expenses incurred in defending wrongful actions.

**Reduce Property Values** Participants also noted that the reduction in public safety has the capacity to reduce property values, or impacts the ability to sell property due to increases in crime rates.

**Economic Development** Finally, participants noted that a reduction in public safety would have an impact on economic development and recruitment opportunities for the county. They felt that without a vibrant public safety system, business and individuals would be less willing to locate to the county or would move away.

**Want more information?** Contact a member of the *Exploratory Committee*.

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## Exploratory Committee's Mission

**Mission** An independent Justice System and Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee (*Exploratory Committee*) to investigate the JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) issue was formed under the leadership of the Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society (HNA&HS).

Big picture ideas for the exploratory effort include the following.

1. Identifying the JS&PSS issue.
2. Identifying the JS&PSS sub-issues for research and analysis.
3. Identifying a range in level of services
4. Identifying a range of cost for services.
5. Identifying revenues for services.

The ultimate goal is an adequate justice system and public safety services. Is it possible to have a higher level of service for a lower cost? The purpose of the *Exploratory Committee* is to gather information adequate enough to understand the JS&PSS issues. This includes educational outreach efforts.

The *Exploratory Committee's* purpose is limited to investigating and researching the JS&PSS issues. It will not make evaluations of right or wrong, nor make recommendations on how to vote.

The contents of this brochure are expressions of the opinions and beliefs of those that contribute based on their thoughts and experiences. Hopefully, their efforts will assist the public toward informed decision-making.

- Donations Are Not Tax Deductible -

Edited by Mike Walker, Member, Exploratory Committee

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### *Justice System Exploratory Committee*

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### HNA&HS

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## IMPACTS ON WELL BEING FROM REDUCTIONS IN PUBLIC SAFETY: After 2009

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Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

### OSU'S Rural Studies Program & JS&PPS Documents



**Very Draft July 31, 2013**

*Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee*